

A Godly Home Guarantees Godly Kids
10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 3
June 18th, 2017

Dumb Idea #3: A Godly Home Guarantees Godly Kids

Proverbs 22:6 A Verse Often Misunderstood

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Most people seem to think this verse promises that a child raised **CORRECTLY** will come back to the Lord **EVENTUALLY** – it **DOESN'T**

Proverbs 22:6 isn't a **PROMISE**; it's a **PROVERB**

A promise made by God is **ABSOLUTE** – you can bank on it

A proverb is different; it's an observation about how life **GENERALLY** works, and tells us what **USUALLY** happens, not what **ALWAYS** happens

Proverbs 22:6 tells us **NOT MANY** will depart from their spiritual roots, but **SOME** will

Eventually our children will have to answer to God for their **OWN CHOICES**

Parents will be held accountable for **HOW** they raised their children, not how their children **TURNED OUT**

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) "Train a child in the way he should go,..." refers to training in the path of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and/or training that aligns with a child's **UNIQUE** personality and giftedness

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV) "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training & instruction of the Lord."

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) "... and when he is old he will not turn from it." There is not anything guaranteeing a **RETURN** to the Lord, especially one that comes after a season of **REBELLION**

The verse actually says the child won't turn away in the **FIRST PLACE**

It's not saying a properly raised child will **NEVER** rebel; it's saying that he's **UNLIKELY** to do so

In the case of those who do walk away from the Lord, this passage and the rest of the Bible are **SILENT** about their odds of returning

Why This Is Such A Devastating Myth

The belief that a godly home guarantees godly children often brings unwarranted **GUILT**

When we see a father or mother struggling with the out-of-control behavior of an unruly child, most have a harsh judgment of the **PARENTS**, not the **CHILD**

The idea of a good and godly home most always **TRUMPS** a suspect gene pool and the foolish choices of a rebel

There is only so much that a godly home can do to **COUNTER** inherited physical or emotional inclinations

B.F. Skinner believed that children are born as **BLANK** slates, able to be shaped and molded in any direction so long as we use the proper rewards and stimuli

The Bible teaches parents do have great influence and will be held responsible for **HOW** we raise our children, but it also makes it clear that none of us can hide behind our upbringing or environment as an **EXCUSE** for our wrong decisions or foolish behavior

Ezekiel 18:20 (NLT) “The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.”

Romans 5:12 (GN) “Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned.”

We are born with a sin nature and a leaning toward **SELF-CENTERED** and **SINFUL** behavior

With God’s help, we have the **CAPACITY** to overcome

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

The belief that a godly home guarantees godly children often brings foolish **PRIDE**

For some the foolishness of our parental pride doesn’t get exposed until our kids become **ADULTS**

As parents all we can do is our **BEST**; the **FINAL** outcome is ultimately out of our hands

A Lesson From The Garden Of Eden

In the Garden of Eden there was a **PERFECT** environment, **PERFECT** parenting, and the complete **ABSENCE** of a sin nature – how did that turn out?

If nothing else, the fall of Adam and Eve should put to rest the idea that **ENVIRONMENT** controls **OUTCOMES**

In our society too often everything is someone else’s **FAULT**

Parenting is a **TOUGH** job. Advice is **EASY** – so is **CRITIQUE**, but for those in the midst of the battle, it’s not so **SIMPLE**

As parents, we do have a sacred **RESPONSIBILITY** for how we raise our kids, but we have no ultimate **CONTROL** over how they turn out

When godly parents do the best they can and yet fail to achieve the outcome they hope for, they need a **BREAK**, not a drive-by “**GUILTING**”

When things go well, parents need a lot more **GRATITUDE** and a lot less **PRIDE**

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV) “This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV) “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

My Next Step Today Is:

- As a parent and a follower of Christ, I will take responsibility for how I raise my children, but I realize my children are ultimately responsible for their own choices and decisions
- I am interested in participating in one of summer financial classes “Smart Money, Smart Kids” or “Legacy”

Next week: Join us as we explore Dumb Mistake #4: God has a blueprint for my life. Bring a friend!

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